

# Franck Marchis: Candidate for Vice-President

**Affiliation:** SETI Institute and Unistellar

**Position/Title:** Senior Astronomer and CSO

**PhD institution:** Université Paul Sabatier, 2000

**Areas of scientific interest:**

- Adaptive optics
- Direct imaging of asteroids and exoplanets
- Citizen Science

**AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:**

- Member, 2016 – 2018, Subcommittee on Professional Culture & Climate, Division for Planetary Sciences

**Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:**

- Associated Researcher, 2019 – present, Laboratoire d’Astrophysique de Marseille
- Collaboration Manager, 2003 – present, Science Definition Team, Gemini Planet Imager
- Collaboration Member, 2019 – present, SETI Permanent Committee, International Academy of Astronautics (IAA)
- Affiliated Astronomer, 2003 – 2020 \*to be renewed in 2022, Observatoire de Paris
- Member, 2019 - present, Science Definition Team GNAO, Gemini Observatory
- Science Advisor, 2019 – present, VR2Planets
- Science Operations Lead, 2018 – present, Project Blue
- Scientific Advisor, 2017 – present, Nelly Ben Hayoun Studio
- Chief Science Officer and Co-founder, 2017 – present, Unistellar
- Member, 2013 – present, Telescope International Science Definition Team for Solar System, TMT
- Member, 2011 – present, ERIS Science Team, European Southern Observatory
- Reviewer OPC, 2008 – 2009, European Southern Observatory
- SOC and LOC Member, 2007, Spirit of Bernard Lyot Conference
- Member, 2006 – present, Keck NGAO Science Committee, Keck Observatory

**Statement:**

This is an awe-inspiring time to be an astronomer, and I share the excitement felt by people across our community about the progress we’ve made over the last two decades. I take special pride in the fact that our achievements include not just the technological—extraordinary new



space missions and incredibly powerful new space- and ground-based telescopes—but also extend to vital outreach efforts in education and inclusion. Working together, we have created a golden age of astronomy, and we have done not just for ourselves, or for a small elite, but for all humankind.

For these and other reasons, I would be honored to serve as AAS Vice President. I pledge to do all I can to ensure that our meetings, the main task of the Vice President, attract, inform, and teach all the members of our diverse community. Working closely with the AAS board, I propose to explore ways to increase the visibility of our conferences, workshops, and town halls. Two effective ways to do that, I believe, are by reaching out to colleagues from non- and for-profit institutions who have embraced public/private partnerships to fund their research, and by promoting international education and outreach programs.

If elected, I will work to ensure that the AAS remains a welcoming place for all astronomers and one that respects differences and gives voice to underrepresented groups, including LGBT people and scientists with families. We must always remember that an institution that reflects the diversity of today's world will produce better results by attracting to our field dynamic people of all kinds. These efforts will build stronger bridges between this society, its members, and the public at large, and help astronomy continue to build on the awe-inspiring work of recent decades.

Yes, we have accomplished much, and we have much to be proud of—but our work is not ending, or even slowing down. It is just beginning. I will be honored to help as a AAS vice-president.